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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 87% Fog/mist in the morning and partly cloudy sky later Sensex 77,155 | Nifty 23,349 | Gold 77,950 | Silver 92,000 | Dollar 84.49 | Euro 88.93 | GBP 106.84

PRECIOUS DROP

A month into Cauvery Stage V initiative, officials have received merely 1,596 applications for new water connections

PAGE 4

STREETIES' CHOW

100+ eateries, hotels join up for BBMP's stray dog feeding initiative; 1,000 dogs get fed daily at 135 feeding spots

PAGE 5

Favourable meteorology, sparsely populated neighbourhoods some of the factors that help B'luru breathe easy, but experts suggest we need to still keep check on vehicular emissions

FOR A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

As winter approaches, city's air quality index dips

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Just over a month ago, Bengaluru was breathing easier with good and satisfactory air quality on the majority of the days, across all 11 stations monitoring Air Quality Index (AQI).

However, with winter approaching, the city's AQI has deteriorated. In October, some areas recorded moderate (AQI between 100 and 200) and poor (200-300) AQIs.

Nonetheless, researchers and air quality experts say, Bengalureans need not fret over witnessing the seemingly apocalyptic scenario that New Delhi is enduring. From favourable meteorology to sparsely populated neighbourhoods, Bengaluru is blessed with some factors that will ensure the city's air quality never plunges to hazardous or severe levels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

INSIDE» PG 3 Chill out, this winter

"Although Bengaluru's outskirt is also growing at a fast pace, its moderate climate does not allow planetary boundary level to fall. Less cold winter also means less fuel wood burning

— Air quality expert

Don't fall for this traffic trick

Calls from 'traffic police' about violations, using threats to extract payments, turn out fraudulent

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Traffic Police Department has issued a warning about a surge in digital fraud cases where scammers pose as traffic police officers and make fake calls or send messages threatening victims. Many individuals, including traffic police officials themselves, have reported receiving such calls. The fraudsters often demand payments or personal details. Traffic police have now urged citizens to stay alert and report such incidents immediately.

The tactic

According to a public notice issued by the traffic police, fraudsters are employing various schemes to deceive individuals into providing personal information or money. They often make calls, claiming that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

3 THINGS TO DO

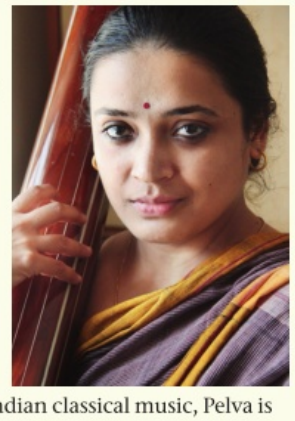
01 United for nature

Watch 'Crabbby,' a delightful and interactive play for children aged 5-7 that highlights the power of teamwork and environmental conservation. In this charming tale, Crabbby, the clever crab, and Storky, the wise stork, are unlikely enemies who come together to save their pond from pollution. Through creativity, cooperation, and a shared love for the environment, this engaging play inspires young audiences to think about the importance of protecting nature while having fun. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: November 24, 3:30 pm & 6 pm**

02 Network stories

BangaloREsidency 2024 by Goethe-Institut/Max Muller Bhavan presents Iz Paehr's final exhibition. The works on display follow internet infrastructures, plants, fungi and telegrams through the built world, soils, trees and skies. During their time in Bangalore, Iz has been researching and compiling stories of technological development as supposedly linear and frictionless. **Where: NCBS Archives Campus, Ground Floor of Southern Laboratories; When: November 22, 5:30 pm to 7 pm**

03 Dhrupad vocal show



Join in for 'Dhrupad Dhvani,' a two-day showcase of Dhrupad, one of the oldest vocal forms of classical music from the Indian subcontinent. On Day-2, immerse yourselves in Dhrupad's structured compositions and powerful vocal techniques with Pelva Naik. A rising star in the world of Indian classical music, Pelva is dedicated to preserving and evolving the Dhrupad tradition. With deep meditative and spiritual resonance, Dhrupad offers a unique experience for listeners interested in India's rich musical heritage. **Where: Performance Theatre, Indian Music Experience Museum; When: November 30, 7 pm**

Spot nature's fluttering beauty in its full glory

Butterfly Garden at ICAR-NBAIR in Yelahanka aims to conserve endangered species, educate children, raise awareness on ecological role of butterflies

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR-NBAIR) in Yelahanka has established a Butterfly Garden to conserve endangered butterfly species and raise awareness about their ecological importance.

The garden, conceptualised by Dr Gundappa, Senior Scientist at ICAR-NBAIR, is designed to support butterflies by providing a habitat enriched with host plants. "The butterfly garden is already attracting butterflies. We have planted host plants that provide nectar and support their life cycles." Dr Gundappa further said that this garden will also serve as an educational hub for school children to learn about the importance of butterflies in nature. "Some of the plants added to the garden include Butterfly Bush (Buddleja spp), Cassia (Stachyphera Cassia), Lantana (Lantana sp), and Tecoma (Tecoma sp)," he said.

The Butterfly Garden at ICAR-National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources in Yelahanka (inset)

Vital role towards research and community outreach

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Dr TR Sharma, Deputy Director General (Crop Science), ICAR, Delhi, said, "Butterflies are not only indicators of a healthy environment but also vital contributors to pollination, which directly impacts crop productivity and ecosystem health. This Butterfly Garden aligns with ICAR's vision of integrating science with nature while meeting educational and recreational needs."

Dr SN Sushil, Director of ICAR-NBAIR, explained how the garden would contribute to research and community outreach. "The facility provides a platform to study pollinator biology, behaviour, and ecology. It will also educate students, farmers, and communities on the importance of conserving pollinators and their habitats. The garden's array of host plants ensures a supportive environment for the feeding and survival of butterfly species, addressing challenges caused by declining pollinator populations," he said.

Importance of butterfly gardens

Butterfly gardens are said to play a vital role in biodiversity conservation. By supporting butterflies, these gardens enhance pollination, which is essential for plant reproduction, agricultural productivity, and maintaining healthy ecosystems. As pollinators, butterflies contribute significantly to sustaining ecological balance.

Dr Gundappa added that the ICAR-NBAIR Butterfly Garden is a step forward in promoting environmental education and addressing the global decline in pollinator populations. "...It (Butterfly Garden) underscores the need for creating such spaces to conserve biodiversity and protect the delicate relationship between pollinators and the environment. This initiative will be helpful in ensuring sustainable ecosystems and educating future generations on the importance of preserving nature," he added.

CRIME FILES

Road rage: 2-wheeler rider 'assaults' BMTC bus driver

A Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus driver was allegedly assaulted by a two-wheeler rider following a road rage dispute near Nrupatunga Road near Magistrate Court. The incident occurred on Wednesday, at around 5:40 pm, when the BMTC bus, travelling from Majestic to CK Pallya, was confronted by the rider.

According to the police complaint filed by the driver, Kushal Kumar (38), the scooter rider, identified as Mohammed Fazal, became enraged when the bus did not give way to his scooter. Fazal allegedly boarded the bus near the driver's door, yelled at Kumar, and physically assaulted him in front of passengers and bystanders. Kumar reported being struck on the left ear and shoulder. It is also alleged that Fazal grabbed his uniform collar, obstructed his ability to drive, and threatened his life. A BMTC staff member, Krishna, who intervened, was also verbally abused and insulted by Fazal, further escalating the situation. Adding to the chaos, a car driver reportedly supported Fazal's actions. The bus passengers and other witnesses were left alarmed by the brazen display of aggression. Fazal has been booked for assault, criminal intimidation, and obstructing a public servant from performing their duty. — BMB

Woman ends life; family alleges dowry harassment

A 29-year-old woman tragically ended her life on Wednesday reportedly unable to bear the persistent dowry harassment by her husband and in-laws. The deceased is identified as Rupa and a case has been registered at the Doddabelavangala police station. Rupa, a homemaker, was married to Suresh, a data entry operator in the local Panchayat office, two years ago. During the wedding, Rupa's family gave a gold deposit of 100 grams, but Suresh's family allegedly spent significantly on the ceremony. Suresh and his family reportedly pressured Rupa to bring additional money from her parents, leading to frequent harassment.

According to police officials, Rupa was found hanging at her residence on Wednesday morning. She left a note naming her husband Suresh, father-in-law Narasimhamurthy, and mother-in-law Devamma as the reasons for her death. While her parents filed a complaint alleging dowry harassment, the suicide note did not explicitly mention dowry demands. The Doddabelavangala police have taken Suresh into custody, while efforts are underway to trace and apprehend his parents. The case is still under investigation. — BMB

Brace yourselves, winter may arrive in chill mode

Meteorologists predict 'harsh' winter ahead; farmers worry about its impact on crops, livestock

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Following heavy rainfall in the state, meteorologists are anticipating a significant drop in temperatures in the coming days. According to CS Patil, Director of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Bengaluru chapter, this year's colder conditions are primarily attributed to the lower-than-normal surface temperatures of the Pacific Ocean, a phenomenon known as La Niña. Patil noted that the biting cold is expected to be most pronounced during the early morning hours, between 4 am and 8 am.

Now, the state is bracing for an intense cold wave, with temperatures plummeting unexpectedly. Even in traditionally warm regions like North Karnataka, cold winds have caused temperatures to drop drastically over the past four days.

Districts such as Vijayapura, Bagalkot, and Belagavi have experienced an abrupt change in weather in the last few days. The minimum temperature, which typically hovers around 15°C, has dropped to 12°C. Meteorologists predict that this cold spell will intensify further in the coming days, with minimum temperatures potentially dropping to as low as 7 to 8°C. This year's heavy monsoon rains are expected to contribute to record-breaking cold in the region.

A commuter during rain in Bengaluru last week

Impact on crops & livestock

Farmers in North Karnataka, especially in Vijayapura district, which has significant cultivation of tur dal, are facing challenges. The crops, currently in the flowering and pod-setting stages, are vulnerable to the extreme cold and dew, leading to pest infestations and diseases. Farmers are resorting to spraying pesticides twice a week, adding to their expenses. Additionally, grape farmers are worried as the frost and chill could severely affect yields. Groundnut crops, which are also in the flowering stage, are reportedly withering before they can mature. Farmers have expressed concerns about further crop damage if the cold persists.

> **Biting cold is expected to be forcast during early morning hours, between 4 & 8 am**
> –CS Patil, IMD Director, Bengaluru

Livestock are also showing signs of distress, with health issues cropping up due to the drop in temperatures, and a potential decline in milk production has been flagged by dairy farmers. The sharp drop in temperature has led to a surge in health problems among residents, particularly children and the elderly. Many are suffering from viral fevers, coughs, colds, and throat infections. The biting cold, which persists until 9 am, is making it difficult for children to attend school and for farmers to head to the fields.

Rain may return to Bengaluru next week

Dry weather is expected to persist across most parts of Karnataka, while Bengaluru and a few other districts are likely to experience rainfall on November 26 and 27. Upon observing the weather parameters, Dr N Puviarasan, a scientist at IMD, stated that due to the proposed cyclone effect, moderate rain or thundershowers are predicted in isolated places across districts such as Kolar, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapura, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kodagu, and Hassan on November 26 and 27. Dry weather is expected to prevail in Coastal Karnataka, North Interior Karnataka, and the remaining districts of South Interior Karnataka. Until then, Bengaluru is expected to experience a generally cloudy sky with fog or mist during early morning hours in some areas. The city's maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 26°C and 18°C, respectively.

IN BRIEF

Lokayukta recovers huge booty during multiple raids in state

A huge cache of cash, jewellery, watches and monuments have been recovered during the raids that were conducted by Karnataka Lokayukta on Thursday.

The state's anti-corruption agency was conducting raids at several places spread across three districts in the state on Thursday. The raids were conducted in Kolar, Bengaluru City and Mandya districts in connection with four cases registered with the agency against officials of various departments.

Around 25 places belonging to officers were raided and records were checked by the Lokayukta officials. In Chikkaballapur, raids were conducted against Krishnaveni MC, Senior Geologist in the Department of Mines and Geology and in Mandya, it was conducted against Mahesh, MD Kaveri Neeravai Nigama in Surface Water Data Centre Bengaluru. The officials who were raided include NK Thippe Swamy, Director of Town and Country Planning and Mohan K, Excise Superintendent in Bengaluru.

Earlier in July, Karnataka Lokayukta, conducted multiple raids at several places spread across six units or districts in the state against 12 state officials. The Lokayukta raided the residences of six officials in Bengaluru City, two officials in Bengaluru Rural District and two officials in Shivamogga district and one officer each in Yadagiri and Tumakuru. Fifty-four places belonging to officers were raided. —ANI

Advertorial Promotional Feature

BM Food & Night Life

6 quick fixes for spontaneous gatherings at home

Most of us love spontaneous get-togethers with pals. However, if you love having people over at the drop of a hat, but find yourself fazed about what you're going to feed them, here are some tips to keep you calm and happy to be entertaining.

Say it out loud
Say to yourself as soon as you find out: 'My friends are coming for the company; good food is a bonus'. And then believe it.

Decide on menu
Decide–without guilt – on a mix of ordered-in and home-made food.

Be prepared
Keep a bunch of good-value go-tos in mind among your favourite delivery options.

Look into your freezer
If you do this frequently, freezing portions of favourite foods makes sense. All you need to do is make or order in carbs, and throw together a salad.

Concentrate on starters
Good appetisers at the beginning of a meet-up are what count; everyone is pleasantly 'happy' and full by the time the main course rolls out.

Combine easy elements to make a dessert
Hot gulab jamuns or gajar (carrot) halwa and ice cream always works well.

—Femina Food

Just 1,596 takers for Cauvery Stage V so far

Alternative sources make target villages hesitant; BWSSB plans campaigns to boost project with capacity to supply 775 million litre water daily

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Despite the ambitious launch of the Cauvery Stage V project, designed to supply water to 110 villages under BBMP's jurisdiction, the public response has been surprisingly muted. A month into the initiative, only 1,596 applications for new water connections have been submitted, falling far short of expectations and highlighting a clear hesitancy among residents. With a capacity to deliver 775 million litres of water daily (MLD), the project has so far seen limited uptake from the targeted villages. While around 30,000 applications have been received citywide, the 110 villages account for just a fraction. Of these, 1,121 applicants have received demand notes, 759 connections have been approved, and 475 remain under review.

"To address situation, BWSSB started awareness campaigns in 110 villages to encourage more residents to apply – Prasad M, BWSSB

Sources said that many residents remain reluctant to seek Cauvery water connections due to the availability of alternative water sources. Free water supplied through borewells (CMC sources) or private borewells managed by neighbourhood associations meets their current needs, reducing the demand for Cauvery water. Additionally, the cost involved is a significant deterrent. Residents are hesitant to pay the upfront pro-rata charges and monthly bills, especially if they do not plan to use Cauvery water immediately. Seasonal factors also play a role; with no water shortages and the onset of cooler months, the urgency to secure new connections is low. Another concern is the mandatory monthly fee for Cauvery water connections, which residents must pay even if the water remains unused, further discouraging applications.

Seasonal factors contribute to low urgency, as there is no water scarcity and cooler months are also approaching

Currently, the BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board) is supplying only 150 MLD of water from the available 775 MLD capacity, constrained by the limited number of connections. In some areas, water is being provided on a trial basis or as a complimentary service. However, the BWSSB has assured residents that by March 2025, adequate water supply will be ensured for all new connections. "To address the situation, the BWSSB has started awareness campaigns in the 110 villages to encourage more residents to apply. We aim to achieve 1 lakh connections by December 2024, targeting 4 lakh connections overall," stated Dr Ram Prasad Manohar, BWSSB chairman.

Infrastructure and revenue concerns

Officials said that BWSSB is also working to establish 20 service stations and recruit 417 C and D-grade staff on a contract basis to support operations in these areas. The revenue generated from new connections is essential for sustaining maintenance and staff salaries. "Despite challenges, the BWSSB remains optimistic about increasing the connection rate and ensuring the project benefits the intended residents," added an official.

Dark days over: St John's road lights up again

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of Sivan Chetty Garden, Kamaraj Road, and nearby areas are grateful to the authorities for restoring the street lights on St John's Road. Defunct street lights have caused significant problems for the past three months, especially for pedestrians and women.

Bangalore Mirror published a story titled "Total eclipse of the street" on November 12, highlighting the difficulties pedestrians face walking along the footpath of St John's Road at night due to the absence of street lights. The report also expressed residents' frustration with the indifferent authorities who have not addressed the issue, despite receiving numerous complaints about the non-functional street lights installed during the road's development by Bengaluru Smart City Limited.

Bangalore Mirror
One by one, street lights on St John's Road started going bust over last three months, leaving the stretch in complete darkness
TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE STREET
Lights were installed when road was developed few years ago

Bangalore Mirror reported on November 12 about the challenges pedestrians face due to lack of streetlights

Now, the residents are delighted to see St John's Road illuminated with street lights. They said that they wanted to appreciate Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad for directing the authorities concerned to fix the street lights issue.

"I am happy to see the road with street lights. It will be a great help for women and senior citizens who walk on the footpath in the evening. Now pedestrians can go on a walk at night without any hassles. I appreciate all those responsible, including our MLA, for repairing the street lights," said Ranjeet Kumar, a resident of Kamaraj Road. Echoing a similar sentiment, Sunil Kumar Sharma, a resident, expressed his satisfaction with the prompt response from the concerned authorities. "I am happy to see all street lights are on at night on St John's Road. I am grateful to BBMP authorities and our MLA for taking measures to ensure street lights work," said Sunil Kumar Sharma.

A resident, speaking on the condition of anonymity, stated that it is the responsibility of BBMP's Street Light Department to ensure the street lights are functional and that they should not wait for residents to lodge complaints about the defunct lights. "The street lights on St John's Road were not functional for more than three months thus causing inconvenience to the pedestrians. I hope the authorities will monitor the working of street lights regularly," the resident said.

However, Maria of Aam Aadmi Party, Shivajinagar, said that she wanted the authorities to ensure the street lights work without any hassles. "There have been instances where the street lights stop working after just a few days. I don't want them to become defunct again so soon. I urge the authorities concerned to monitor the working of the street lights on St John's Road," said Maria.

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9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage pile-up
Wilson Garden

Wilson Garden's 9th Cross footpath remains unusable due to garbage dumping and vehicle parking, which inconveniences pedestrians.

Neglected road
Bagalur

The condition of New Airport Road in Bagalur has been poor for the past six months, with no action taken to resolve the issue.

Timing issue
Jayanagar

The park on 3rd Main between 40th and 45th Cross in Jayanagar's 8th Block continues to close at 11:30 am, inconveniencing regular visitors.

Banks can enforce mortgages: HC

The Karnataka High Court ruled that when the state government permits mortgaging of granted land for house construction loans, banks cannot be prevented from selling the property in cases of loan default, despite non-alienation clauses. This decision was made whilst quashing an endorsement dated July 18, 2023, issued to South Canara District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd. The endorsement, which denied permission to enforce the mortgage through a property sale, was based on a 25-year alienation restriction in the grant. The court clarified that whilst the state can take action against allottees who misuse the allotment, including blacklisting them from future benefits, they cannot prevent banks from enforcing mortgages.

The case involved Poornima, who received a free site under the Ashraya Yojana and mortgaged it for a bank loan but defaulted on repayments. The court examined Rule 9, which permits such mortgages, acknowledging the scheme's aim to provide housing to the economically disadvantaged.

HC rejects private seed petition

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a petition that challenged a government directive regarding the purchase of certified and truthfully labelled (TL) seeds exclusively from government agencies. The court upheld the government's exemption, stating it was legally permissible to ensure quality, quantity, and affordable certified seeds for farmers. The petitioners had argued the decision was unlawful and restrictive, affecting their business of producing, processing, and marketing TL seeds. Upon examining Section 4 of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999, the court found the government order neither arbitrary nor biased. The petition was subsequently dismissed.

Court reserves verdict

The Karnataka High Court reserved its verdict regarding a petition challenging the validity of an FIR registered against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and others. The case involves allegations of "extorting" substantial funds from companies through the electoral bond scheme and utilising agencies like the ED.

Following the conclusion of arguments, Justice M Nagaprasanna reserved judgment on the petition submitted by Nalin Kumar Kateel, who previously headed the BJP's State unit and is listed as the fourth accused in the FIR.

Bengaluru police filed an FIR on September 28 after a complaint alleged Rs 8,000 crore extortion via electoral bonds. The court stayed the investigation, stating the complainant was not a victim.

BM WoW Week
Your Chance to WIN today
Just answer this question and win passes to a concert by Shilpa Rao on November 23 at Phoenix Marketcity
Which album got Shilpa Rao a Grammy Award nomination?
Scan this code to follow us on Instagram, and drop in your responses along with contact details on our page.
You can also send in the answers to our WhatsApp number:
9591233247
(* Terms and Conditions apply)
This is a busy week so music-lovers can win big. Watch this space daily so you won't miss out!

Streeties have their plates full, thanks to BBMP initiative

Palike's stray dog feeding program now has 135 spots, with over 100 hotels helping feed 1,000 dogs daily; initiative aims to expand to 5,000 spots soon

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BBMP's campaign feeds stray dogs across zones with hotel food

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) 'Bite free locality' campaign is gaining traction. In just over one month, more than a hundred hotels and restaurants across the city have joined the civic agency in feeding stray dogs. According to BBMP officials, the campaign has been extended to 28 constituencies and 135 feeding spots, from the initial 10 spots a month ago.

"There are 135 feeding spots now across 28 constituencies in the city. On average, more than one thousand street dogs are being fed daily with the help of 135 hotels and restaurants. While the focus is on feeding spillover, some hotels are also serving boiled rice and chicken to the animals," said Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department.

BBMP started the initiative on October 17 and on day one, nearly 150 street dogs were fed at ten spots in the city.

Under the campaign, stray dogs across all eight zones are served sumptuous meals. Food from the hotels is collected by BBMP marshals. The marshals then hand over the food to pourakarmikas (PKs) who feed the animals. Signboards have been put up at feeding sites with details of food and water bowls and food delivery areas.

"It is a wonderful initiative, and the project is giving the BBMP AHD team deeper insights into the challenges feeders are going through daily. While BBMP will be focusing on increasing the capacity to feed a higher count of dogs every month, the idea is to strengthen communities that can own these dogs and feed them daily," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, the NGO assisting BBMP in its initiative.

> **More than 1,000 street dogs are being fed with help of 135 hotels. While focus is on feeding spillover, some hotels are serving boiled rice and chicken** –Vikas K, BBMP

Currently, the feeding exercise will be overseen by the PK supervisor and the zonal assistant director of BBMP's Animal Husbandry department

BBMP plans to increase the number of feeding spots by designating multiple areas at the ward level. Officials say, currently it is five spots per constituency. The next goal is to have five spots in every ward.

"We are planning to cover most of the areas that do not have feeders or caretakers. While we plan to reach 5,000 feeding spots over one month, the next goal is to reach 10,000 feeding spots in the city. We are receiving good responses from citizens as many are coming forward and joining hands. The ultimate goal is to have locals who own and manage these feeding spots," added Kishore.

BBMP's rescue centre to begin operation soon

BBMP's first stray animal rescue centre in Dasarahalli, capable of treating 50 animals at once, is set to begin operations in two weeks. According to the officials from the Animal Husbandry Department, citizens can call BBMP on 1533 if they spot any injured or sick animal.

"We have already finalised an agency and are in the process of issuing a work order. BBMP will assist the rescue calls by sending an ambulance and will treat the injured/sick animal at the centre. Apart from this, soon we will start an infirmary and two observation centres for street dogs," said an official.

The Infirmary will be located on the Veterinary College campus in Hebbal, and observation centres will be located in Hebbal and Yelahanka.

"The infirmary will take in dogs that cannot survive and sustain themselves. The observation centre will ensure that once the dogs have regained health, they are released back to their original location per the Animal Birth Control Rule of 2023," added Kishore.

'Micro-chipped dogs are doing fine'

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After the Karnataka High Court served the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with a notice in response to a public interest litigation filed by an NGO challenging BBMP's micro-chipping program for stray dogs, officials from the Animal Husbandry Department have clarified that the pilot of the program was carried out keeping health of street dogs and other aspects in mind.

According to the department, more than 500 street dogs have already been microchipped under the pilot, and are healthy.

"We have microchipped 502 dogs near Malleswaram, Mathikere, and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus. It has been nearly two months since the dogs underwent the process and were released. All of them are fit and fine," said Suralkar Vikas Kishore, Special Commissioner of BBMP's Health and Animal Husbandry Department.

Officials say BBMP is in the process of filing a comprehensive response to the notice and are hopeful the litigation will be dismissed soon.

A few months ago, another NGO filed a petition challenging BBMP's microchipping program. However, the matter was dismissed after the court did not receive a reply from the NGO in response to BBMP's objection to the PIL.

The PIL, this time, has been filed by Save our Animals Charitable Trust (SOACT), stating that the tender for microchip procurement and implantation in stray dogs contradicts the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules of 202 and the program falls outside BBMP's authorised activities. In response to the PIL, the court also served notice to the Union of India and other respondents apart from BBMP.

"There are multiple advantages of implanting microchips in stray dogs. Regarding the adverse impact of the procedure, research shows that the chances of aberration in the procedure are 0.0001%," added Kishore.

A point of contention raised in the petition is that microchip implantation constitutes an invasive procedure not sanctioned by regulation. However, officials from the Animal Husbandry Department say that the procedure is not invasive by veterinary standards. The program, as per BBMP, will also ensure citizens' participation in maintaining the street dog population in the city.

More than 60,000 BPL cards converted to APL

Cancellations primarily target individuals who no longer meet eligibility criteria for BPL cards

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

BPL card holders waiting to collect food grains (File photo)

The Food and Civil Supplies Department has undertaken a comprehensive revision of Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards, leading to the cancellation of 65,563 BPL cards across Bengaluru. Following controversies over removal BPL card holders, State Government said that they are reviewing it. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said, "I have instructed that excluding government employees and taxpayers, other beneficiaries will retain BPL cards." The cancellations primarily target individuals who no longer meet the eligibility criteria. Among those removed, 12,886 cardholders were identified as taxpayers, while the remaining had an annual income exceeding Rs 1 lakh. Notably, 457 government employees were also found to possess BPL cards in violation of the guidelines.

Breaking down the cancellations by region, Bengaluru East saw 9,129 BPL cards converted to Above Poverty Line (APL) status, with 1,781 identified as taxpayers and the remainder earning above Rs 1 lakh annually. In Bengaluru North, 18,382 cards were cancelled, including 2,164 taxpayers, while the rest exceeded the income threshold. Bengaluru South recorded 11,447 cancellations, comprising 2,835 taxpayers and others earning over Rs 1 lakh. Similarly, Bengaluru West reported 19,549 cancellations, with 4,475 taxpayers and the remaining cardholders surpassing the income limit. Beyond the urban areas, Bengaluru Rural accounted for 24,196 BPL card cancellations, of which 3,269 were taxpayers and the others had incomes above Rs 1 lakh. The revision underscores the department's efforts to ensure that BPL benefits reach only eligible individuals, eliminating misuse and streamlining the system for those genuinely in need.

> **"Claim that BPL cards are being cancelled is entirely incorrect. We are looking into retrieving cards that have been issued to ineligible persons**
>
> –CM Siddaramaiah

The Food and Civil Supplies Department clarified that the cancellation of BPL ration cards is being carried out only for government employees and income taxpayers, following central government guidelines. Food Minister KH Muniyappa assured that families whose cards were temporarily suspended will resume receiving rice and other benefits within a week. Speaking to the media, Muniyappa explained that ineligible BPL cards had been reclassified as Above Poverty Line (APL) cards after verification. He stressed that only cards held by government employees and those filing income tax returns were being revoked. He noted that the CM had directed that no other BPL cards should be cancelled, and the current measures were not aimed at indiscriminate cancellations.

The minister provided data showing that approximately 1.02 lakh BPL cards are set for cancellation statewide, including 4,036 belonging to government employees and 98,473 held by taxpayers. Additionally, 59,370 BPL cards were shifted to the APL category, 16,806 were retained under BPL, and only 8,647 cards were permanently cancelled. Karnataka currently has over 1.5 crore BPL and APL ration cards. Muniyappa reiterated that re-verification processes are underway to ensure eligible families continue to receive benefits, including free rice, despite earlier cancellations.

Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah clarified that only ineligible BPL cards will be retrieved, and there will be no impact on eligible cardholders. "The claim that BPL cards are being cancelled is entirely incorrect. We are looking into retrieving cards that have been issued to ineligible persons. The Food Department is verifying these cases, and no final decision has yet been taken. Ineligible individuals will not retain cards, but eligible beneficiaries will not be denied their entitlements."

CM Siddaramaiah further questioned whether BPL cards should be given to income taxpayers and government employees, reiterating that no cards would be cancelled outright. Only cards held by ineligible persons might be reclaimed while ensuring that no eligible person is deprived of benefits. Meanwhile, Opposition Leader R Ashoka accused the government of revoking 11 lakh BPL cards and planning to cancel 14 lakh more.

One can visit Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs website to generate a new ration card.

AIDSO criticises govt for budget cuts to public education

The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) criticised successive governments for consistent budget cuts to public education. The organisation argues that such policies undermine access to quality education, especially for economically weaker sections of society. Public education, once a pillar of social equality, has been steadily eroded through privatisation and corporatisation.

The organisation in a conference pointed out that rising costs of education, fee hikes, and a lack of proper infrastructure further widen the gap between privileged and marginalised communities.

AIDSO also condemned the controversial National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, introduced by the central government without adequate public consultation. The policy, they allege, prioritises commercialisation over accessibility, disproportionately impacting rural and underprivileged students. The members alleged that in Karnataka, NEP implementation led to significant disruptions, including the closure of 13,800 government schools under the guise of mergers. Additionally, the introduction of a four-year undergraduate programme increased financial burdens.

Student protests erupted across the state under AIDSO's leadership, with over 37 lakh people signing petitions against NEP 2020. The widespread movement forced the Karnataka government to repeal the policy.

To address these systemic issues, AIDSO has put forth several demands, including halting fee hikes and reopening closed government schools, strengthening public education by filling vacant teaching positions, repealing NEP 2020 and other policies that promote privatisation and corporatisation, allocating a higher percentage of the national and state budgets to education, ensuring campus safety for women, and conducting free and fair student union elections.

Students writing Karnataka School Quality Assessment and Accreditation Council (KSQAAC) at Government Kannada Model School, Cox Town (File photo)

Ajay Kamath, state secretary of AIDSO, said, "The challenges in India's education system require immediate and united action. Our fight is not only to ensure accessible education for all but also to safeguard public education from being dismantled."

To further these efforts, AIDSO will host the 10th All India Students Conference in New Delhi on November 27, 28, and 29. The conference will bring together students, educators, and activists to strategise and strengthen the movement against policies like NEP 2020.

Leopard still in area

A camera trap image shows that the leopard that attacked and killed a 56-year-old woman near Shivaganga forest in Nelamangala taluk on November 17, has not left the area.

Officials from the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) spotted the leopard while analysing camera trap images of Wednesday.

"As per the images, the leopard was spotted at 7.15 pm on Wednesday. Leopards are territorial and this particular big cat has marked its territory. The animal is using this area and has not strayed far from the spot where it attacked the woman on Sunday evening. It is also an empty stomach as we have not found a carcass or any other trace of a dead animal. We are waiting for it to go for our bait," said Sivasankar S, conservator of Forest, Bengaluru Circle, KFD. The department has set up eight cages with bait in a big cage.

Notably, after the incident, the department put up some camera traps and also deployed two thermal drones to be used at night to trace the big cat.

"The hillock in the area is full of small caves and perfect hideouts for the animals and resorting to any other technique such as darting will not be fruitful. We have no other option but to wait and catch the animal in one of our cages. We are flying the drones every night but have not been able to spot the leopard through thermal camera," added Sivasankar.

Rider crashes into tree, dies

A 26-year-old man was killed in a self-accident at RR Nagar around 1 am on Thursday, police said.

The man, Nagaraju, was said to be returning home when he crashed into a tree after losing control of the vehicle in the middle of the road. He was reportedly speeding and also not wearing a helmet. Due to severe injuries, he died while on the way to the hospital.

According to the police, he was working in a private airline company. The Kengeri traffic police have registered a self-accident case. Further investigations are underway.

3 with fake passports arrested

The International Airport police on Tuesday booked three women travelling with fake passports and on visiting visas.

According to the police, these three women were heading to Oman and were caught by immigration officials during document verification.

The accused, Gondi Lakshmi Devi (42), Lakshmi Pasupeleti (39) and Godhavari (30), confessed to the crime where they fabricated their passports to conceal their previous travel history.

The accused have been arrested, and further investigations to tap the reason and source is underway.

HEALTH TIP: Instead of overwhelming yourself with intense workouts, begin with small, manageable activities

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SKIN DEEP BEAUTY

The best skincare routine for teenagers & young adults

Your skin, in fact your entire body, goes through a plethora of hormonal changes throughout your teenage (and tweenage). While the changes may take place internally, some effects can be seen externally with the skin being the softest target. From acne to excess oil, your skin is about to (or already does) experience a lot and it's imperative for you to establish a well-suited skincare routine that takes care of all your skin woes. It doesn't need to be very elaborate or extensive, trust us. A basic and simple routine with minimal products but a whole lot of care should do the drill. So here's how you can get started with your skincare journey in a super-easy and fuss-free way.

Cleansing First

Cleansing is the most important part of any skincare routine across age groups and genders, tbh. Your skin unknowingly (but naturally) becomes home to a lot of dirt, debris and oil that needs regular cleansing. So, use a facial cleanser (yes, a separate one that's crafted for facial skin only) twice a day in the morning and night to not only cleanse but also prep the skin for the subsequent products. It's best to use a gentle, non-foaming cleanser that doesn't dry out the skin and isn't heavy on chemicals.

Join The Tone Zone

What many people consider as a fad is actually a necessity for your skin in your teens and tweens. Extremely thin and lightweight, a toner possesses the capability of going into the deepest layers of your skin and treating concerns. You can use a basic alcohol-free toner to keep blackheads and whiteheads at bay. Additionally, you can also opt for concern-specific toners like vitamin C for brightening or rose toner for soothing. Caring for your blackheads and whiteheads or pores to be specific can help with acne.

Moisturise, Not Doing So Is A Vice

You need to moisturise your skin thoroughly thrice a day (morning, evening and night) to cut down on all the skin struggles that may arise due to dry and dehydrated skin. Use a moisturiser that is specially crafted from your skin type. Not moisturising can harm your epidermis and disrupt the health of your skin barrier. Always opt for a non-comedogenic cream or lotion that doesn't clog your pores. If you have extremely dry skin, look for ceramide-infused creams.

Give Strong Chemical Exfoliants & Anti-Ageing Ingredients A Miss

No honey, you don't need to overwhelm your skin with sundry products just because you're aware of them. Take it easy and give your skin what it truly needs. Introducing unwanted skincare ingredients so early on can have adverse effects and torment your skin.

Use SPF Without Fail

Skipping SPF is as good as committing a crime for your skin (it is really that bad) so make sure to include an SPF in your skincare routine, even if you're not stepping out. Not wearing an SPF equals sun damage which in turn can stimulate problems like pigmentation, dullness, uneven skin tone, tan and much more.

Exfoliate Wisely

Exfoliate but with care and caution since too much of it can damage your skin, causing extreme dryness and dullness. Exfoliating teen skin is a risky affair and you should be doing it in a well-informed manner. Avoid chemical exfoliation so early on. Use a gentle non-abrasive physical exfoliator that only scrubs off the dead skin and dirt on the upper surface. Don't go hard or harsh.

Acne Treatments Must Be Limited

You shouldn't go overboard with any kinds of acne treatments. After all, it's a part of the hormonal change process and loading your skin with products can do only so much to keep them at bay. Use a gentle anti-acne cleanser with mild salicylic acid and trust aloe vera to soothe inflamed skin. In case of extreme acne, visit a dermat ASAP.

— Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Study explains why females sleep less

While caregiving roles often take a toll on women's sleep, a new study on Thursday suggested that biological factors may also play a role in why females sleep less.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, showed that women sleep less, and wake up more often. They also get less restorative sleep than men.

The findings based on experiments in mice shed new light on what may underlie sleep differences in men and women.

"In humans, men and women exhibit distinct sleep patterns, often attributed to lifestyle factors and caregiving roles," said Rachel Rowe, assistant professor of integrative physiology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, US.

"Our results suggest that biological factors may play a more substantial role in driving these sleep differences than previously recognised," Rowe added.

Sleep research has exploded in recent years, with thousands of animal studies exploring how insufficient sleep impacts the risk of diseases like diabetes, obesity, Alzheimer's, and immune disorders -- and how such diseases impact sleep.

For the non-invasive study, the team used specialised cages lined with ultrasensitive movement sensors to assess the sleep patterns of 267 "C57BL/6J" mice.

They found that males slept about 670 minutes total per 24-hour period, about an hour more

than female mice. That extra sleep was non-rapid Eye Movement (NREM) sleep -- the restorative sleep when the body works to repair itself.

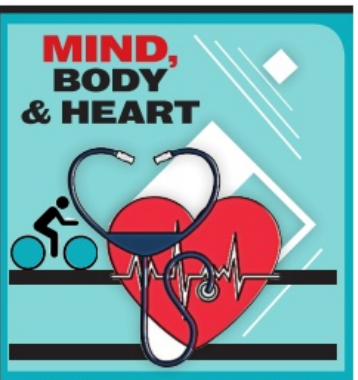
Female mice were found to have shorter bouts of sleep -- essentially, their sleep is more fragmented.

The study saw similar sex differences in other animals, including fruit flies, rats, zebrafish, and birds.

Rowe said biologically, "females are designed to be more sensitive to their environment and be aroused when they need to be because they are typically the ones who are caring for the young," Rowe said, noting that stress hormones like cortisol (which promotes wakefulness) and sex hormones also may play a role.

The team hopes for more research to understand the underlying biological differences that can boost sleep treatment.

— IANS



All you need to know about...

Aerobic fitness

Cuts dementia risk
High cardiorespiratory fitness could help lower risk of dementia by up to 35 per cent, including in people with a high genetic risk for developing the ageing-related condition, according to a study.

Oxygen delivery
Cardiorespiratory fitness or or aerobic fitness is a measure of how well oxygen is delivered to muscles and organs while performing physical activity. With age, as mucles weaken, the capacity of circulatory and respiratory systems to supply oxygen declines.
Cycling, running and aerobic exercises can help improve cardiorespiratory fitness.

Cardiorespiratory fitness
Researchers from Tianjin Medical University, China, and Karolinska Institute, Sweden, found that people having high scores in cardiorespiratory fitness had a higher cognitive function and a lower risk of dementia.
Further, among these individuals, onset of dementia was found to be delayed by up to 1.5 years, or 18 months.

Cognitive function
"Our study shows that higher cardiorespiratory fitness is associated with better cognitive function and decreased dementia risk. Moreover, high cardiorespiratory fitness may buffer the impact of genetic risk of all dementia by 35%," the authors wrote in the study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. Maintaining favourable levels of aerobic fitness could be a strategy to prevent dementia, even among people genetically inclined towards developing it, they said.

The study
For the study, the researchers divided a group of over 61,000 people aged 39-70 years and not having dementia into three equal sub-groups according to their cardiorespiratory fitness scores. Over a follow-up period of up to 12 years, 553 people were diagnosed with dementia. Onset of dementia was found to be delayed by about a year and a half among those with high levels of cardiorespiratory fitness.

—PTI

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I, Sapna Yadhav D/o Krishan Yadhav R/o Bappur Road,Karriyappa Layout, Sindhanur-584128, have changed my name to Aaliya

I Deepa Sivaraj W/O, Ajay Kumar B S R/o No. 20 Ramkey Layout, Opp To Swimming Pool, Nelamangala New Town, Nelamangala, Bengaluru-562123 have changed my name to Deepa Ajay.

I, Shantha Kumari Ravi Kumar D/o Late Shekaran Unnerikutty Kakkanat R/o 12072, PWP, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-13 have changed my name to Shanthi Ravikumar for all purposes.

I Jameela Naseer W/O, Naseer R/o No 23/3 6th Cross Bismilla Nagar, B G Road, Bengaluru - 560029 have changed my name to Jameela.

I Vamshi Krishna S/o Ramesh R/o Myhna blossom Varthur Bangalore have changed my name from Vamshi Krishna R to Vamshi Krishna for all future purposes

I Sneha Bai Ranganath Sonawane W/o, Sadanandam.P R/o Flat 404, 4th Floor, Pallavi Prestine Apartment, 37th Cross,15th Main, Jayanagar 4th Block, Bengaluru, 560041.have changed my name to Sneha Sadanandam for all purposes.

I, Kaustubh, R/O B1902, Pramuk Aqua Heights, Electronic City, Hosur Road, Bangalore 560100, have changed my name to Kaustubh Sahay for all future purposes.

I, Neeta Krishna Verma R/O Flat No 4, Ground Foor, Meenakshi Apartment, 2nd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopsandra, BLR - 94 changed my name from Neeta Krishna Varma to Neeta Krishna Verma for all future purposes

I, Kamala Kanniampuram , W/o Late Kanniampuram Ramakrishna Janardhan Rao R/o Flat no.112, 1st floor, Shreshta Southern Star, VIP Layout, Akshaya nagar Bangalore - 560068 have changed my name from KAMALA SRINIVASAPAT BELMAN to KAMALA KANNIAMPURAM for all future purposes.

I Jehan Kanagaraj S/O, Kanagaraj R/o Flat No.203, Msr Flora Apartment, Trinity Layout Sompura Gate, Sarjapura, Bengaluru Rural - 562125 have changed my name to Jegan Kanagaraj.

I am Parveez Pasha residing at #288 Bada Makan Opp Lal Bagh main gate Wilson Garden Post Bengaluru 560027. My name is reflecting in Passport as Parveez Pasha Siraj Pasha and I want to change my name to Parveez Pasha

I, Joshi Aditya Anand S/o Anand Joshi R/o No.93, Vittal Nivas, 11th cross, Girinagar, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Aditya Joshi Affidavit Dt.20/11/2024 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Indrani Bhattacherjee W/o Sugato Bhattacherjee Aged About 38 Years R/At D-1019, Brigade Northridge, Kogilu Village, Agrahara Badavane, Yelahanka, B'luru 560064 have changed my name to Indrani Majumdar Vide Affidavit Dtd:21/11/2024 Sworn Before Notary Uday Kumar K,B'luru.

I, Saniya Mehdi Javeed D/o Javeed Mehdi R/o #111 TK Road Kalanagara Channapatna Ramanagar KA-562160 have changed my name to Saniya Mehdi for all purposes.

Change of Name

I, Sri.Ashokraj N R, S/o Sri. Ramakrishnegowda, Presently Residing at No.09, 1st Cross, Nandinagar Pramod layout, Pantarapalaya, Deepanjali Nagar Post office, Bangalore 560039 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sri.Ashok N R to "Sri.Ashokraj N R", and hereafter shall be known as "Sri.Ashokraj N R" for all purpose , vide affidavit dated 17.04.2024 sworn before C.K.Anupama Advocate & Notary Bangalore.

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L.K.G

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PRINCIPAL

80 locations in city have high levels of PM 2.5: Study

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Experts say Delhi's severe air quality, especially during winter is due to many reasons including low temperature and wind speed. Due to its cold weather, people also burn firewood, etc to stay warm, leading to higher emissions. However, the calmer wind does not allow the dispersion of these pollutants, leading to poorer air quality.

Colder winter also implies a lower planetary boundary layer in Delhi, which is not the case in Bengaluru.

"During winter, particularly at night, the planetary boundary layer height is much lower. Thus, cold winter nights coupled with low wind speed, increased wood burning, and vehicular emissions from the larger population of Delhi NCR lead to higher concentrations of pollutants as they get trapped in a much smaller volume due to the lower planetary boundary layer," said Dr R Subramanian, sector head for Air Quality, Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP).

Experts also underline that Delhi is surrounded by the densely populated NCR region, a hub of economic activities.

"Although Bengaluru's outskirt is also growing at a fast pace, its moderate climate does not allow planetary boundary level to fall. Less cold winter also means less fuel wood burning," said another air quality expert.

Improvement needed

While Bengaluru has meteorological and geographical advantages that are keeping air pollution under check, vehicular emission in the city is as high as in Delhi. Though the IT city probably will never gasp like the national capital, air quality still needs improvement.

A recent study conducted by researchers from the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bengaluru found that the city has as many as 80 locations with high levels of particulate matter (PM) 2.5.

Particulate peril

The study revealed that the total annual particulate emissions in the city in 2023-24 reached 113 Gg/year for PM10 and 68 Gg/year in the case of PM2.5. While the transport sector emerged as the most dominant contributor to PM2.5, accounting for 39% of the total, re-suspended dust turned out to be the largest contributor (40%) of PM10, followed by transportation (24%).

"Emissions from vehicular traffic, especially heavy vehicles such as trucks, is the major source of pollution in Bengaluru. The city's administration needs to figure out a way to replace conventional fossil fuel trucks with CNG or electric trucks at least within the city limits. BS-VI trucks are cleaner than BS-II, BS-III, or BS-IV if they are maintained well. As per our projection, if BSII, BSIII, or BS-IV trucks are replaced with BS-VI, pollution levels in the city will go down drastically," added Dr Subramanian.

Researchers also say that Bengaluru needs to focus on a smoother transition to EVs by minimising challenges related to battery charging infrastructure.

Yet another recent study conducted by CSTEP highlighted that to meet its electric vehicles' demands, Bengaluru would require more than 36,000 public charger guns, 400 charging stations, and 141-acre land by 2030. An increasing number of Bengalureans are adopting EVs over their conventional counterparts as EVs have zero tailpipe emissions and lower running costs. As per the study, Bengaluru is expected to have more than 23 lakh EVs by 2030. However, for a smoother transition to EVs, challenges related to battery charging need to be overcome.

"More EV charging infrastructure and much-needed boost to public transport systems such as metro and suburban rail are the ways to go. Last-mile connectivity is another important aspect. These if done right and faster would be a big step forward in bringing down and managing the air quality of the city," said the expert.

High pollution on Mysore Road

The Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) installed by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) near RV College of Engineering on Mysore Road recorded five continuous days of poor air quality (AQI between 200 and 300). On one of the five days, AQI recorded was just five points away from becoming 'very poor'.

Experts say such anomalies, which are mostly due to hyper-local activities in the area, should be explored and pinpointed.

Report to authorities if you get any scam call

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

target has unpaid traffic fines or penalties, and pressure them to pay immediately to avoid legal action.

In some cases, scammers send messages stating they have video evidence of a traffic violation, using threats to extract payments. Additionally, fraudsters pose as providers of services like vehicle insurance or registration, aiming to gather personal details or demand advance payments. Another tactic involves sending malicious links or attachments that lead to phishing sites, designed to steal sensitive information or infect devices with malware.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Traffic East Kuldeep Kumar Jain, addressing concerns regarding fraudulent calls, told BM, "We have received complaints about individuals, and even our own landlines, being targeted by callers impersonating traffic police. These fraudsters ask for personal details or payments for fines. We want to clarify that the traffic police do not engage in such practices of calling people to collect details or fines. If anyone receives such calls, they should report them to us and avoid engaging with the fraudsters."

These fake calls and messages exploit a sense of urgency to manipulate victims. These calls are intentionally crafted to alarm individuals, leading them to believe they are in immediate legal trouble, such as unpaid fines or alleged violations. This pressure triggers emotional responses like fear or anxiety, making victims act impulsively without taking the time to verify the legitimacy of the situation.

What citizens should do

The Traffic Police Department has advised the public to take precautions against fraud. Citizens are urged not to respond to unsolicited calls or messages claiming to be from the police, as these are likely scams. They should also avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown sources. Personal information and payments should only be shared after verifying the authenticity of the communication. And to report such fraudulent calls, individuals can lodge complaints through the official website, call the helpline numbers 080-22868550 or 080-22868444, or email details to the officials at acpplanningoffice@gmail.com.

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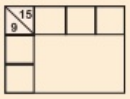
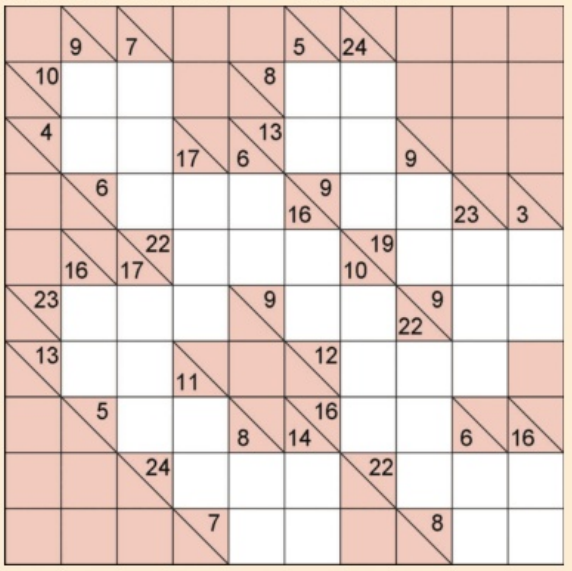
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

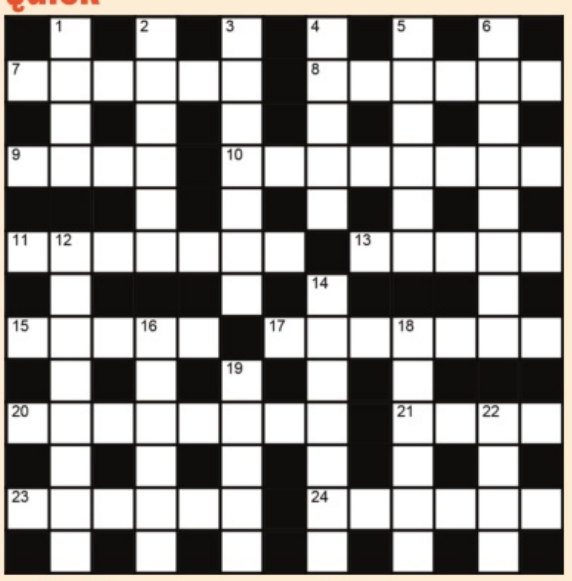


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Lay waste (6)
8 Gruesome; gloomy (6)
9 The foam of the sea (4)
10 Despite the fact that, notwithstanding (8)
11 A small sturgeon (7)
13 Check the ore (5)
15 Bring together (5)
17 Shallow plate or dish (7)
20 Alternative name for Kempe Gowda bus station (8)
21 Kind of fur (4)
23 Mr. Chakraborty of Bollywood (6)
24 Exactly right, colloquially speaking? (4,2)

DOWN

1 Capital of Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea? (4)
2 Old and usually none-too-busy man (6)
3 Entertained (7)
4 Unoccupied (5)
5 Armed forces (6)
6 Infamy (8)
12 Republic of East Africa (8)
14 Inert medication (7)
16 Corpulent (6)
18 Clocking (6)
19 Foul smell (5)
22 Inert gas (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS R

US KNN TQUDSQD, DAAEA OAD-QDLDT JMD JACJM, KSL UJ UT WDJJDA UJ TMECNL YE ZUATJ JMKS NKTJ.

Linemaro

If I had a rupee for every time I thought of you, I'd be a rich man

Mindchow

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life

Joke of the day

Whoever said nothing is impossible obviously hasn't tried to nail jelly to a tree

Loop

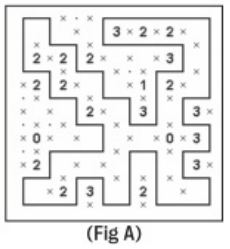
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

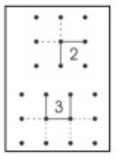
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

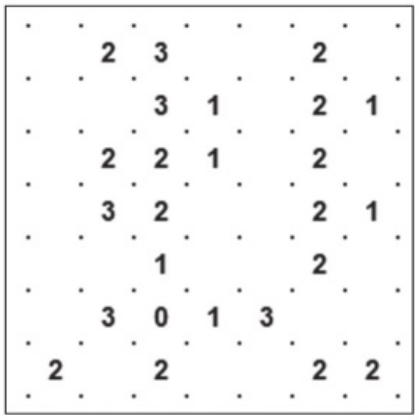
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



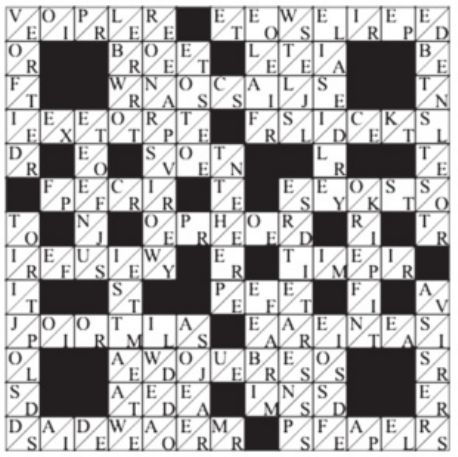
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



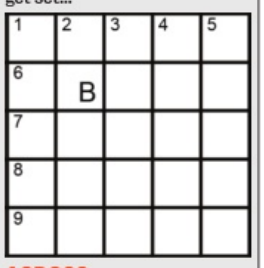
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

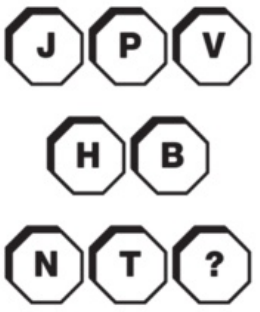
1 Loafs; 6 Booes; 7 Pales; 8 Oasis; 9 Re Day

DOWN

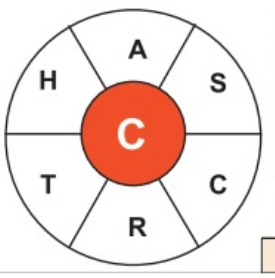
1 Spoor; 2 So bee; 3 As Lao; 4 I fled; 5 Says a

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

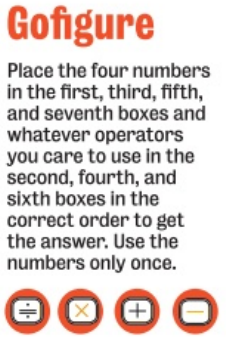
SudokuChallenge

8		4	2		6	1		9
	3		8		9		2	
6				4				3
3								1
	6						4	
4								5
2				6				4
	8		4		3		5	
9		5	1		2	6		7

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



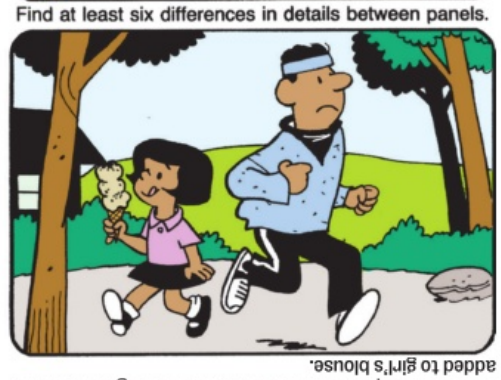
Easy = 5
2 5 5 7

Medium = 3
3 8 8 9

Hard = 9
2 4 5 2

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Sleeve is longer. 3. Ann is lower. 4. Scoop is added. 5. Branch is missing. 6. Button is added to girl's blouse.

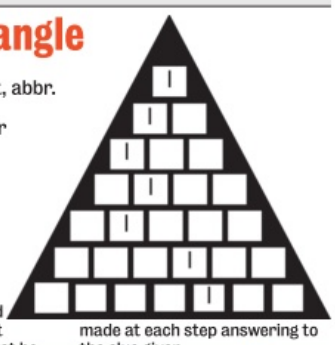
Riddler

In each sentence below, two words are incomplete. The two words end in the same three letters, so they look like they should rhyme, but they don't. See if you can figure out the missing letters in each sentence.

1. A citrus devil could be called a le___ de___.
2. It would de___ me if my gold claim should pe___ out.

Alpha triangle

1 Pronoun
2 Integrated Circuit, abbr.
3 Frozen water
4 Cannes' neighbour
5 Sister's daughter
6 Italian city
7 Deerlike



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

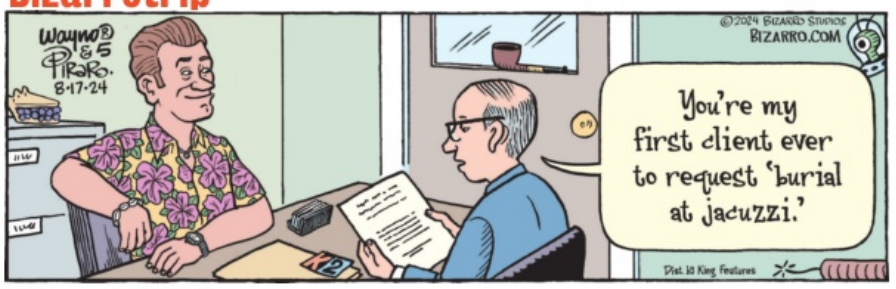
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

GET OUT OF ME LIFE!
YA IS RUININ' ME!
HA! HA! THAT'S WHAT UNGENIES ARE KNOWN FOR! YOU MADE ME APPEAR SO YOU'RE STUCK WITH ME!!
YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY!
GULP!! YOU ARE THE MASTER... I AM THE SLAVE!
YOUR DANCING GIRL WAS A FLOP! LET'S SEE HOW YOU CAN DO WITH WEALTH AND MONEY!
GET ME ONE MILLION DOLLARS!
I HEAR AND OBEY, MASTER!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip


Wayno & Piraro 8-17-24
©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS BIZARRO.COM
You're my first client ever to request 'burial at jacuzzi.'
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

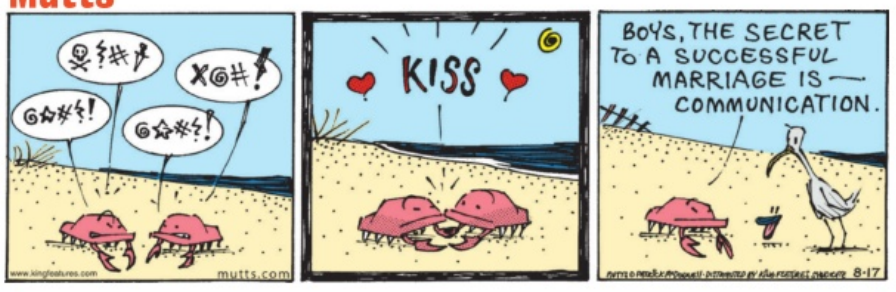
Hart of the city

THANKS SO MUCH FOR ALL THE BIRTHDAY GIFTS.
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO MISS THE PARTY LATER!
IF I'M EVER NOT AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY, IT'S CUZ I'M DEAD.
OR DREADFULLY SICK!
OR IN JAIL!
YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST.
LET'S GET GOING! THE PARTY STARTS SOON!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ABIGAIL'S MCWEEL

Crankshaft

FOR A WHILE THERE... THE ROSE WAS IN BLOOM...
CHAD AND JEREMY
AND THE WIND FROM THE WEST HAD ITS OWN SWEET PERFUME... FOR A WHILE THERE.
THE KENT STAGE
PETER ASHER & JEREMY CLYDE
BATTLOCK & DAVIS

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, work will keep you busy, but with the blessings of elders and well-wishers, you may bring fresh innovations to the table. Your ethical approach and adherence to rules may also grant you inner peace and strength.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel satisfied with your responsibilities at work. You might also plan a short work-related trip. A visit to a religious place could help maintain your inner peace and positivity. Guidance from mentors could bring clarity to your goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you might feel a bit low, so it's best to keep calm and think twice before taking any action. You could consider travelling to recover finances. You may also feel drawn to occult studies. You are advised to avoid adventure trips for now. Students are advised to focus on their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, family harmony may bring you joy. You may meet someone influential who can help you professionally. Your work performance is likely to be good, with the potential for rewards or promotions. Disputes over inherited property could be resolved now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, self-reflection could boost your confidence, and your focus on goals becomes clearer, leading you toward success. You might take an interest in art, movies, and glamour. By day's end, you'll likely feel content with life, and any opponents are under control.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today may present mixed situations. It's best not to have high expectations from others to avoid disappointment. Self-reflection may help you gain confidence and prepare to accept new challenges.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may sense negativity around you, making responsibilities feel burdensome. Rushing through tasks may lead to mistakes and delay projects, impacting work life. You could seek advice from elders or consultants before making significant decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today looks positive, as you're likely to see success in your professional front. Strong focus may enable you to complete work ahead of schedule, boosting confidence. A beneficial work-related short trip could also help expand your network.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, with the moon's blessings, you may acquire inherited assets. Patience at work may enhance your efficiency. You'll likely be polite and use your communication skills to attract new business opportunities.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the moon's blessing brings patience. Despite external work stress, inner calm may help you maintain balance, allowing you to enjoy both work and family life. Your parents' health may improve, and you could receive good news from siblings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel unhappy, and old health issues could resurface, causing impatience. It is advised that you avoid impulsive spending on unnecessary items. Controlling your temper is also advisable. Lovebirds should steer clear of minor disagreements to avoid conflicts.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, both domestic and professional life may go smoothly. Being polite with others may help you complete tasks effortlessly. New income sources could boost your savings, and you might consider renovating your home or office. Those in jobs might expect promotions.

KIDZONE

Kushi P, Bengaluru

Riya S Patil, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= [3]-1-9
=1/3-9
=3

BULL'S EYE
arch, cart, cash, cast, catch, char, chart, chat, crash, scar, scat, SCRATCH, starch

RIDDLER
1. lemon demon &
2. deter peter

FAST FIVE

S	O	L	F	A
O	B	O	E	S
P	E	A	L	S
O	S	S	I	A
R	E	A	D	Y

STRIKE OUT

S	I	D	E	A	R	M	S	E	A	L	S			
D														
O		A	D	J	U	R	E	S		S				
P	O	R	T	I	A		A	R	E	N	A	S		
I		S				E	F	T		I		A		
R	E	S	E	W		E	I	M	P	I				
T		N		E	P	H	O	D		R	T			
P	E	R	I		E		E	Y	O	T	S			
D		E	V	E	T		L		L		E			
E	X	T	O	R	T		F	L	I	C	K	S		
O			B	E	E		L	E	A		E			
T			R	A	S	C	A	L	S		N			
	O	V	I	P	E	R		T	O	W	E	R	E	D

QUICK

A														
M	I	T	H	U	N		B	A	N	G	O	N		
N		S		I		E		I		E				
M	A	J	E	S	T	I	C		M	I	N	K		
Z		L		S		A		I						
U	N	I	F	Y		P	L	A	T	T	E	R		
A			D		P				C					
S	T	E	R	L	E	T		A	S	S	A	Y		
E		L		Y		P		R						
S	U	R	F		A	L	T	H	O	U	G	H		
K		F		G		P		O		S				
R	A	V	A	G	E		M	O	R	B	I	D		
B		G		R		E		T		D				

MENSA PUZZLE
2. Starting at the top left of the diagram, and moving around it in a Z shape, letters follow the alphabetic sequence, in steps of 6 letters at a time.

QUOTE UNCODE
In all science, error precedes the truth, and it is better it should go first than last.

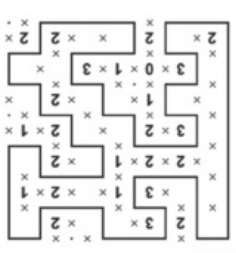
SUDOKU

8	5	4	2	3	6	1	7	9
7	3	1	8	5	9	4	2	6
6	9	2	7	4	1	5	8	3
3	2	8	5	9	4	7	6	1
5	6	9	3	1	7	2	4	8
4	1	7	6	2	8	3	9	5
2	7	3	9	6	5	8	1	4
1	8	6	4	7	3	9	5	2
9	4	5	1	8	2	6	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, IC, Ice, Nice, Niece, Venice, Cervine.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 5 − 7 + 2 = 5
Medium
8 + 9 − 8 / 3 = 3
Hard
2 x 5 / 2 + 4 = 9

LOOP



KAKURO

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 # AR Rahman bags award

Music composer AR Rahman has bagged a trophy for providing background music to Malayalam movie 'The Goat Life' at the 2024 Hollywood Music in Media Awards (HMMA)

MOM JOKES

DP shares what her skincare routine is since she became a mom

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh became parents to a beautiful baby girl this year in September. They recently announced her name as Dua Padukone Singh. While DP is busy being a doting mom and spending most of her time with the little one, the actress keeps her fans updated about her new life through reels and memes on social media, which are too cute to miss. For instance, Deepika has now given a glimpse of her skincare routine after she's become a mother.

This funny reel sees a man just washing his face with water and nothing else and it read, "My skincare routine after becoming a new mom."

Interestingly, Deepika has launched a skincare brand and yet looks like she doesn't seem to find time for her skincare with a complex routine. Netizens found deep relatability with this reel and dropped comments. Deepika and Ranveer recently took their first holiday with their baby girl and their families for their anniversary.

On the work front, Deepika was last seen in an cameo in 'Singham Again' which also saw Ranveer Singh along with Ajay Devgn.

Rohit Shetty has confirmed that there will be a new film just based on Deepika's 'Lady Singham' character and that's the reason why she was introduced in the movie. **—ETimes**

Love story based on true incident

Director Smaran Reddy has tried to tell the society about the prevalence of honour killings taking place in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh with this film. However, though honour killings take place in case of inter-caste marriages, in this movie, an honour killing takes place because the protagonist, a government employee, falls in love with the hero, who fails to get a government job. Though the hero and heroine belong to the same caste, the heroine's father, being a school teacher, kills her despite her agreeing to marry a person of his choice.

Love Reddy

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Smaran Reddy
- **ACTORS** Anjan Ramachendra, Shravani, NT Ramaswamy, Ravi Kalabrahma, Vani Gowda
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 138 minutes

The movie, set in the backdrop of a village near Chikkaballapur, begins with Narayan Reddy (Anjan Ramachendra), a misogynist, rejecting marriage proposals. He works as a supervisor at a garment factory and happens to see Divya (Shravani) in a peculiar situation. Smitten by her beauty, he falls in love with her. Supported by family members, he follows her religiously to express his love. While he is dreaming of leading a happy married life with Divya, her father arranges her betrothal with another person. What happens to him and Divya is what Love Reddy is all about.

The problem with this movie is that it is a little bit slow in the pre-intermission session. Anjan Ramachendra has to improve his acting skills. Shravani has not much to do, except in the climax scene. The director did not give her a chance to showcase her acting skills. All she has done is to walk up to the bus stop with a file in her hand. The scenes between Anjan Ramachendra and Jyothi Madan are far from convincing.

NT Ramaswamy, who plays the school teacher, is convincing as a possessive father.

Songs are good and music by Princy Henry adds value to this movie.

Families can catch this film for some entertainment. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

What is real? What is illusion?

Anshu generated a lot of buzz among moviegoers when its trailer was released a few weeks ago. Though he showcases just one actor - Nisha Ravikrishnan - director MC Chenna Keshava has tried his best to make it different from other movies based on a single character.

Chenna Keshava avoids showing the faces of most of the characters throughout the movie. Dialogues of the other characters are audible but faces are blurred. The director with a movie based on illusions has also aptly included a message to the society stating that blood has no caste or religion.

The movie begins in a hospital where Druthi (Nisha Ravikrishnan) is refusing to give her consent to terminate her pregnancy despite her husband Ravi (Mahendra Gowda) insisting that she do. The scene then shifts to Druthi's home where her husband demands she remain at home but she wants to work as a lecturer at a college. At this juncture, she receives a call from a college stating that Anshu has not been attending classes for three months. She contacts Anshu and comes to know that all is not well with her. You have to watch the film to know what happens to Druthi and who Anshu is.

Anshu

3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** MC Chenna Keshava
- **ACTORS** Nisha Ravikrishnan, Mahendra Gowda, Gangadhar, Sujatha Gangadhar, Asha M Thomas
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 137 minutes

Nisha Ravikrishnan, who earned fame for her performance in tele serial Gattimela, debuts as a heroine in Sandalwood through this psychedelic thriller. It may not be an exaggeration to say Nisha will be an asset for Sandalwood if she focuses on her career in the movies. Her dialogue delivery and gestures are praiseworthy.

The song Kaaduva Mounakke is good. Cinematographer Sunil Narasimha Murthy has done a good job behind the camera.

It is worth a watch for all you suspense thriller lovers out there. **—Y Maheswara Reddy**

Changing lanes

Hollywood star Matthew McConaughey reveals he moved to Texas because he became tired of being Hollywood's "rom-com dude".

The 55-year-old actor gained major success with a series of romantic-comedies such as 'The Wedding Planner' and 'How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days', but he wanted to take his career in another direction. McConaughey said on the 'Good Trouble' podcast: "I was the rom-com dude, man, that was my lane, and I liked that lane. That lane paid well and it was working.

"But the lane was ... I was so strong in that lane that anything outside of that lane, dramas and stuff that I wanted to do, were like, 'no, no, no, no, no McConaughey.' Hollywood said, 'no, no, no, no, you should stay there, stay there.'" McConaughey made a conscious decision to stop making romantic-comedy and he's now happy to remain in Texas until the right on-screen roles come his way, reports femalefirst.co.uk. The actor said: "So, since I couldn't do what I wanted to do, I stopped doing what I was doing. And I moved down to the ranch in Texas, and I made a pact with my wife and said, 'I'm not going back to work unless I get offered roles I want to do.'" **—IANS**